

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 723

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: MADAME MAO ATTENDS AMERICAN CONCERT

REF: PEKING 1050

1. MADAME MAO, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITBURO MEMBER YAO WEN-YUAN, PEKING MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WU TEH, VICE FONMIN CH'IAO KUAN-HUA AND PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN, ATTENDED CLIMACTIC SEPTEMBER 16 PEKING CONCERT BY PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA. MR. BRUCE WAS SEATED ON HER LEFT, AND ORCHESTRA CHAIRMAN BALIS ON HER RIGHT. SHE GAVE BEETHOVEN'S SIXTH (WHICH SHE LATER OWNED UP TO HAVING REQUESTED) A STANDING OVATION, CHATTED INCESSANTLY THROUGHOUT THE RESPIGHI "PINES OF ROME", PAID POLITE ATTENTION TO BARBER'S "ADAGIO FOR STRINGS", AND SEEMED MOVED BY YIN CH'EN-CHUNG'S VIGOROUS PERFORMANCE OF THE "YELLOW RIVER CONCERTO". YAO WEN-YUAN WAS GENUINELY ENGROSSED THROUGHOUT, NODDING HIS HEAD IN TIME TO THE MUSIC, AND EMERGED AS THE POLITBURO'S MOST OBVIOUS MUSIC LOVER. YIN'S ROMANTIC ARRANGEMENT OF "HOME ON THE RANGE" AND ORMANDY'S SPIRITED VERSION OF "WORKERS AND PEASANTS MARCH" BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN AND THE MUSIC TO A CLOSE. FULL TV AND NATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO MADAME MAO'S PRESENCE AT THE EVENT IN A HALL HUNG WITH

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BANNERS READING "LONG LIVE THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE CHINESE

AND AMERICAN PEOPLES" AND "WELCOME THE CHINA CONCERT TOUR OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA."

2. AT RECEPTION AFTERWARDS SHE GREETED ORMANDY BY REFERRING TO PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA'S 1940 BENEFIT CONCERT (REFTEL) AND STATING THAT THIS EARLY ACT OF SUPPORT FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE MADE HER FEEL AS IF THEY HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME. "THE CHINESE PEOPLE DO NOT FORGET THEIR OLD FRIENDS", SHE CONTINUED AND THEN PRESENTED ORMANDY WITH AN AUTOGRAPHED 1870 EDITION OF ANCIENT CHINESE MELODIES IN TRADITIONAL NOTATION THAT CAME FROM HER OWN LIBRARY. TO MRS. ORMANDY SHE GAVE A LARGE PLASTIC BAG OF CASSIA FLOWERS PICKED FROM HER GARDEN WITH HER OWN HANDS. SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE PETALS BE USED TO FLAVOR WINE AND CAKES FOR THE MUSICIANS. AFTER A MINERAL WATER TOAST TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES AND ARTISTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE ENTIRE PARTY RETURNED TO THE STAGE FOR MASS PHOTOGRAPHS. MADAME MAO INSISTED ON SHAKING THE HANDS OF ALL 130 MUSICIANS. ORMANDY, ON THE VERGE OF TEARS BY THIS POINT, RECEIVED ANOTHER JOLT WHEN MADAME HUANG CHEN APPROACHED AND ADDRESSED HIM IN HUNGARIAN.

3. MADAME MAO WAS DRESSED IN A FORMAL BLACK VERSION OF THE GREY DRESS SHE WORE AT THE BASKETBALL GAME LAST JUNE, WHITE SHOES AND HANDBAG, AND A SMALL EVENING WRISTWATCH SET IN A CIRCLE OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE PRECIOUS STONES. DESPITE HER STYLISH ATTIRE AND HER GRACIOUS AND GOOD HUMORED BEHAVIOR, SHE DID NOT SEEM NEARLY AS WELL AS WHEN SHE APPEARED AT THE BASKETBALL GAME. HER COMPLEXION WAS SALLOW, SHE PERSPIRED QUITE FREELY ON WHAT WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY WARM EVENING, AND SHE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST A LITTLE WEIGHT. SHE COMPLIMENTED ORMANDY ON HOW VIGOROUS HE SEEMED AND REMARKED THAT, THOUGH TWENTY YEARS HER SENIOR, HIS HEALTH WAS MUCH BETTER THAN HERS.

4. MADAME MAO'S PRESENCE AND UNPRECEDENTEDLY WARM WELCOME FOR PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA (WU TEH WAS HIGHEST OFFICIAL TO ATTEND PREVIOUS CONCERTS BY FOREIGN ORCHESTRAS) REPRESENTED STRONG REASSURANCE THAT DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES REMAINS A PRIORITY ITEM FOR THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP. HER WELL PUBLICIZED ACTIONS PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE THE RHETORIC OF THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS AND OTHER RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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IDEOLOGICAL STATEMENTS LUMPING THE UNITED STATES ALONG WITH THE THE SOVIET UNION AS A PRACTITIONER OF "SUPERPOWER HEGEMONISM". FROM THIS STANDPOINT THE ORCHESTRA'S APPEARANCE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER TIMED. WE ARE WAITING, HOWEVER, TO SEE THE EFFECT THAT MADAME MAO'S OBVIOUS SUPPORT FOR THIS PARTICULAR CULTURAL EXCHANGE WILL HAVE ON A PROGRAM THAT, FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE U.S. AT LEAST, WILL BE STALLED AFTER THE ORCHESTRA DEPARTS. BRUCE

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